

Vidor, Tx 8/20/72
Bridge City, Tx 9/13/81
Anahuac, TX 10/11/92

How Are Your Eyes?

Overhead
Chart

HOW ARE YOUR EYES?? Mt 13:13-17 THE HORTONS

1. The ability to see is one of man's greatest endowments. *DARWIN*
Only those deprived of sight after knowing its blessing can fully appreciate it.
Think how it must be to be born blind!
Fanny Crosby, born blind, wrote over 8000 poems and hymns.
2. Because we value our eyes, we have periodic eye examinations
Surprised when told we are farsighted or nearsighted. *CORRECT*
3. The eye is the faculty of discrimination, perception, discernment. How thankful we ought to be for our eyes.
Scientists estimate that 87% of impressions come by seeing.
4. There are repeated references to the eyes in the scriptures.
Many of these are given spiritual applications, which makes them even more important.
5. At this time we want to engage in spiritual eye check-up.
HOW ARE YOUR EYES? (This one is free *AS TO MONEY*)

I. SOME WERE SPIRITUALLY BLIND:

1. Spiritual blindness ascribed:
 - (1) to watchmen who failed--Isa 56:10
 - (2) to deceitful false teachers as Pharisees--Mt 15:14
 - (3) to those who wilfully reject the truth--2 Cor. 4:4
2. Each year in America and Canada, over 30,000 people go blind
92% are adults. How many go spiritually blind each year?
3. Spiritually, one can see and perceive not--Isa 6:9
 - (1) Because of prejudice:
Jewish leaders saw Christ, but did not perceive Him, his mission or nature of his Kingdom--John 1:11
Today: "Too narrow" "Water Salvation" "Only ones saved"
 - (2) Because of tradition: Mt 15:9
Today: "What parents believed is good enough for me"
Many blindly follow customs and traditions of ancestors
Ill. Sweet young thing cut off end of ham, "Why" Go ask mother, then grandmother, "Pan was too small"

II. THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF EYES "OUT OF FOCUS"

1. This serious problem in both physical and spiritual sense.
Causes man to confuse immediate advantage with eternal values--2 Cor 4:18
Confuses human attainment with divine atonement.
Confuses matters of faith with matters of opinion.
"Look at the good it does", replaces Bible authority
But, we are to walk by faith--2 Cor 5:7, not by sight.
2. Properly focused eyes set affections on things above Col 3:2
Look for that city "four-square"--2 Cor 5:1
Can see "afar off"--adding graces--2 Pet 1:9
These form a ladder, the higher one climbs the farther he is able to see.

III. JESUS SPOKE OF SOME WHO HAVE AN "EVIL EYE"

1. Lexicon defines evil as "in a bad condition"
Of. Lady who criticized neighbor's dirty wash learned that dirt was on her own window--Mt 7:1--*Get beam out* *mt*
2. Evil eye is full of darkness--Mt 6:23
Application is to serving two masters (v. 24) and a singleness of service--(v. 22)
3. Diseased eye must be "plucked out"--Mt 18:9
Not physical, physical operation will not cure evil eye.

IV. SCRIPTURES SPEAK OF THE DOWNCAST EYE:

1. The one who knows sorrow (and who doesn't) but refused to look up for help. Some even blame God for their sorrow.
2. Peter walked on water until he looked down--Mt 14:25-30
Ps 121:1--"Look up" Heb 12:1-2--eyes on Jesus

V. SCRIPTURES SPEAK OF LUSTFUL EYES:

1. How true in our time: (Advertisers capitalize on it)
"The girls that girl watchers watch drink Diet Pepsi....."
2. Men love to have it so, and women do all they can to promote
3. "How should a Christian dress?"
The dress will be right when the heart is right.
1 Tim 2:9--Modest--orderly.
4. Women used to dress like Old Mother Hubbard, now they dress like her cupboard!!
5. Blaze Starr, queen of the burlesque said: "Relaxed attitudes on nudity, sex movies and pornography are killing burlesque. If they get much filthier, I'm out of business"
6. Peter said some "have eyes full of adultery"--2 Pet 2:13-14
Can't see anything by illicit deeds, lust
7. John warns that lust of eyes is one of avenues of sin Jn 2:17
With Eve, it was the forbidden fruit--Gen 3:6
With David, it was Bathsheba--2 Sam. 11:2-3
With Simon, it was power of Holy Spirit--Acts 8:18-19
8. How are your eyes--Do they see lust??

VI. THERE ARE ALSO DELIBERATELY CLOSED EYES:

1. Jesus wept--Jerusalem refused his words Lk 19:41-42
2. Sadly, the same is true in our time.
Some closed because of laziness, no effort--Acts 17:11
Some closed because they fear they might learn truth
Other because of indifference; just don't care.
3. Even Christians become guilty here:
Close eyes to the unsaved; those in sorrow, etc.

CONCLUSION (THE CURE):

1. Church at Laodicea was, among other things, blind Rev 3:17
2. Told to anoint here eyes with Spirit given "eye salve"
3. Are you in darkness? Word of God will open eyes--Eph 1:18
4. Admit your blindness; obey the word.
5. Obey God and be the "Apple of His eye" Ps 17:8